

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the [foregoing amendment and] the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claim 2.

By the foregoing amendment, claim 2 has been amended and claims 1 and 3 have been canceled. Thus, claim 2 is currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed April 6, 2005, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 2 has been amended responsive to this rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,757,937 to Itoh et al., and claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,293,588 to Satoh et al. Claims 1 and 3 have been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claim 2 has been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claim 2 is in condition for allowance and a notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

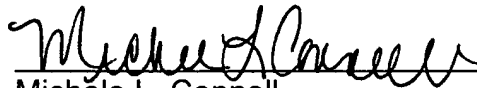
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number 107156-09012. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number 107156-09012.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox, PLLC

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michele L. Connell", is written over a horizontal line.

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